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(54) **MACHINE TOOL**

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CPC B23B 27/007; B23B 7/12; B23B 29/12;
B23Q 5/043; B23Q 5/045
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Primary Examiner — Will Fridle, Jr.

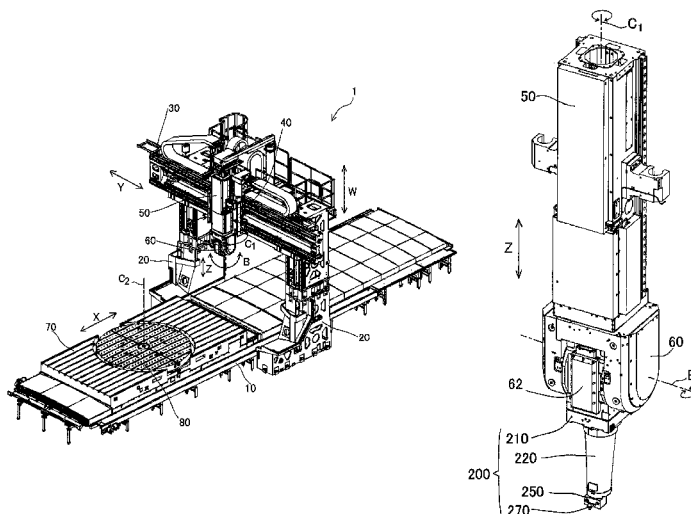
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(57)

ABSTRACT

A machine tool includes a table, a spindle head, a spindle, and an internal turning attachment. The internal turning attachment includes an attachment base, a body, and a tool holder. The tool holder has a tool mount surface to which a turning tool is detachably mounted. The tool mount surface provides a changeable tool mount angle with respect to a plane perpendicular to a spindle rotational axis in a state where the internal turning attachment is mounted to the spindle head. An angle between the spindle rotational axis and a vertical axis is to be larger than zero degree according to the changeable tool mount angle and is fixed while the turning tool contacts a workpiece in a case where the workpiece has a hole with a depth exceeding a length from a body upper portion to a tip end of the turning tool along the spindle rotational axis.

6 Claims, 13 Drawing Sheets



- (51) **Int. Cl.**
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FIG. 1

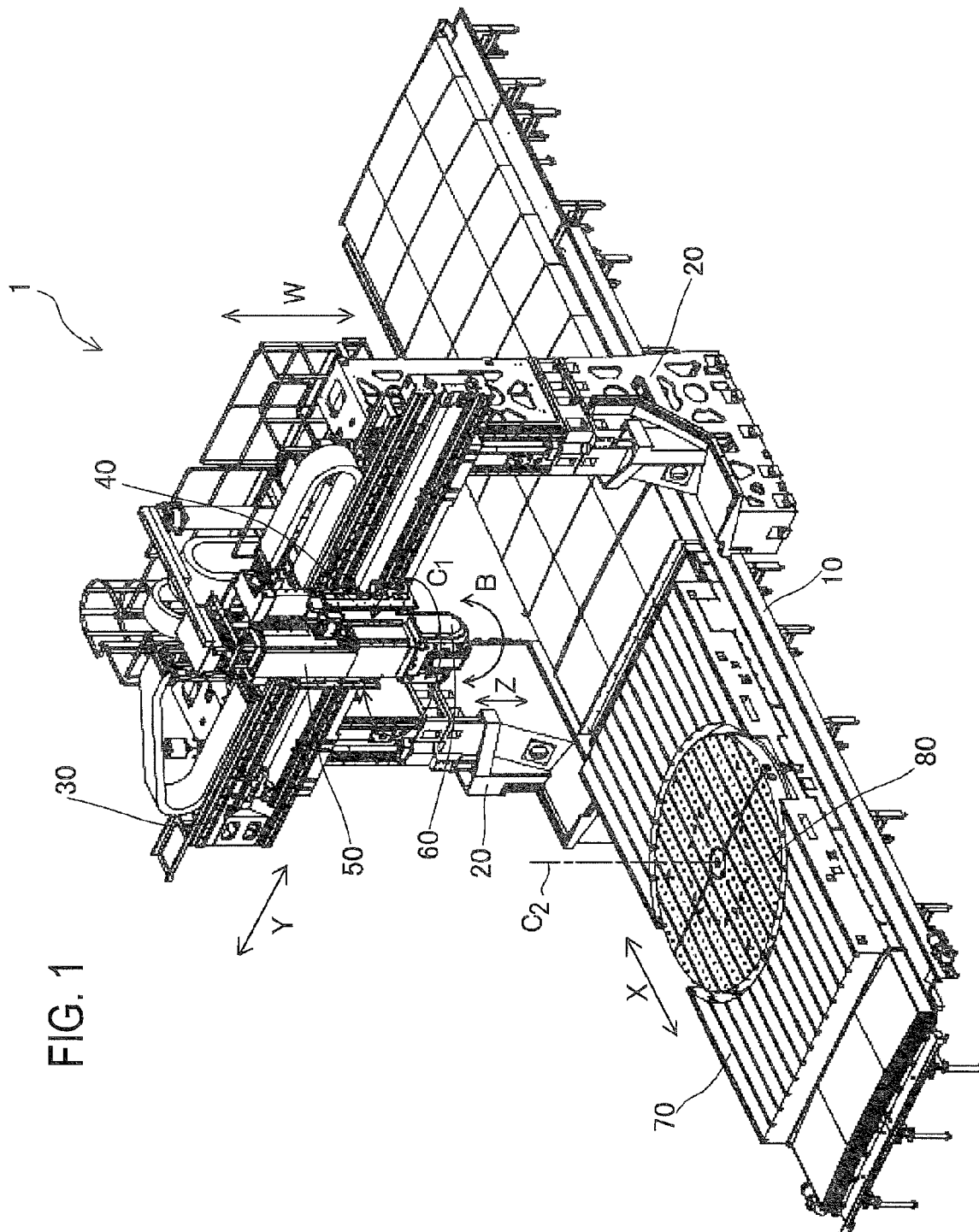


FIG. 2

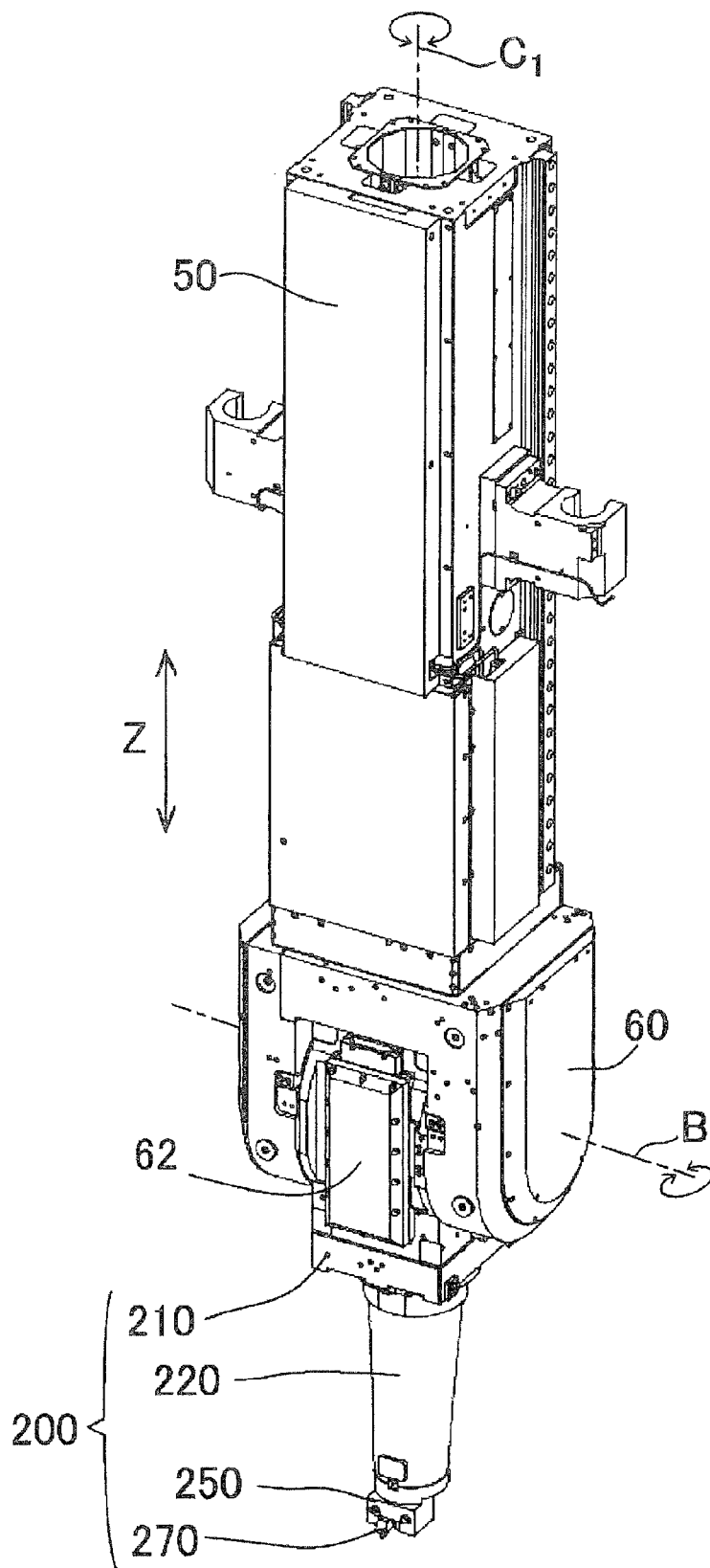


FIG. 3

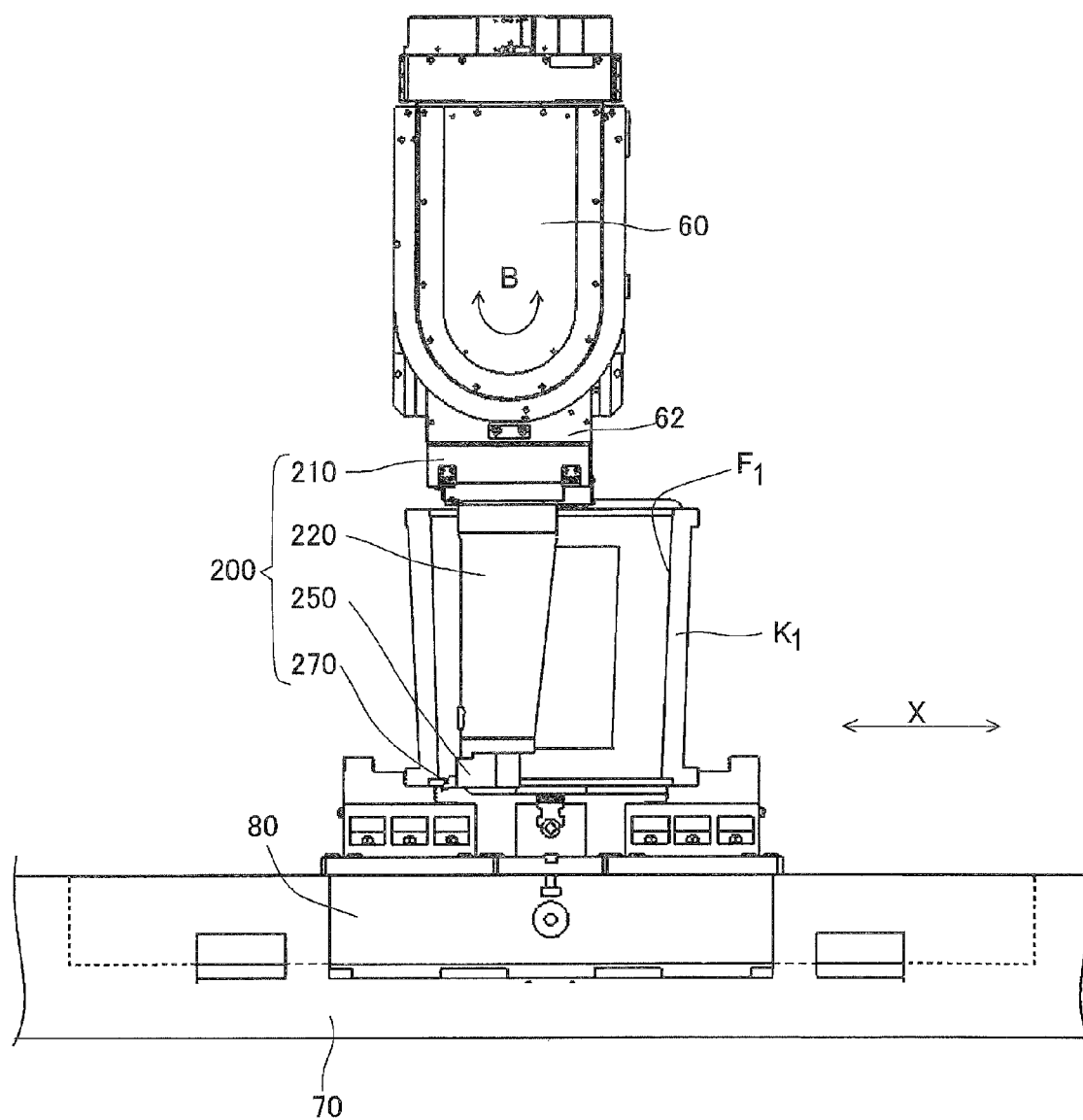


FIG. 4A

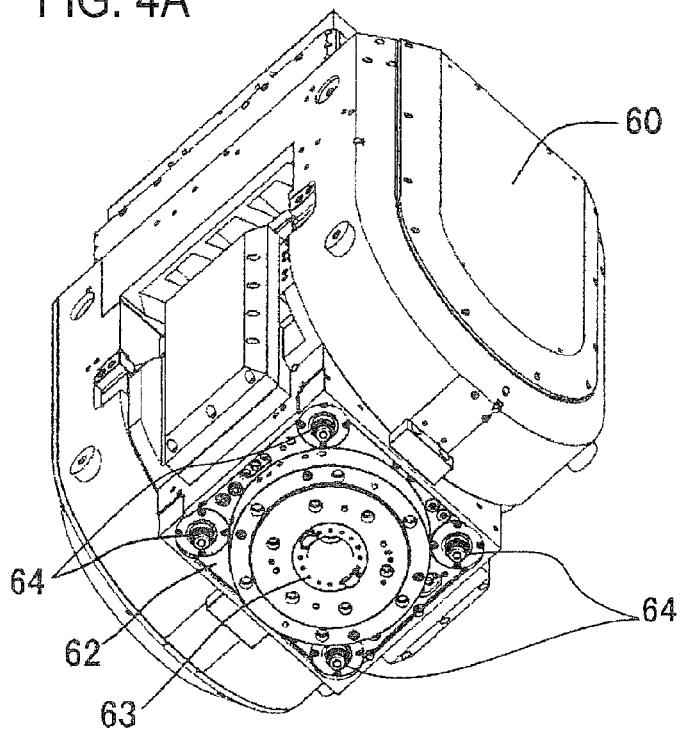


FIG. 4B

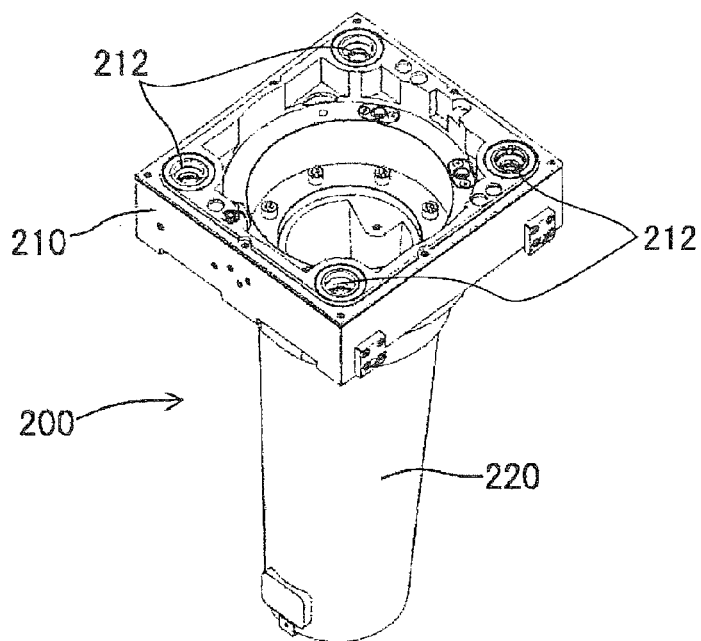


FIG. 5A

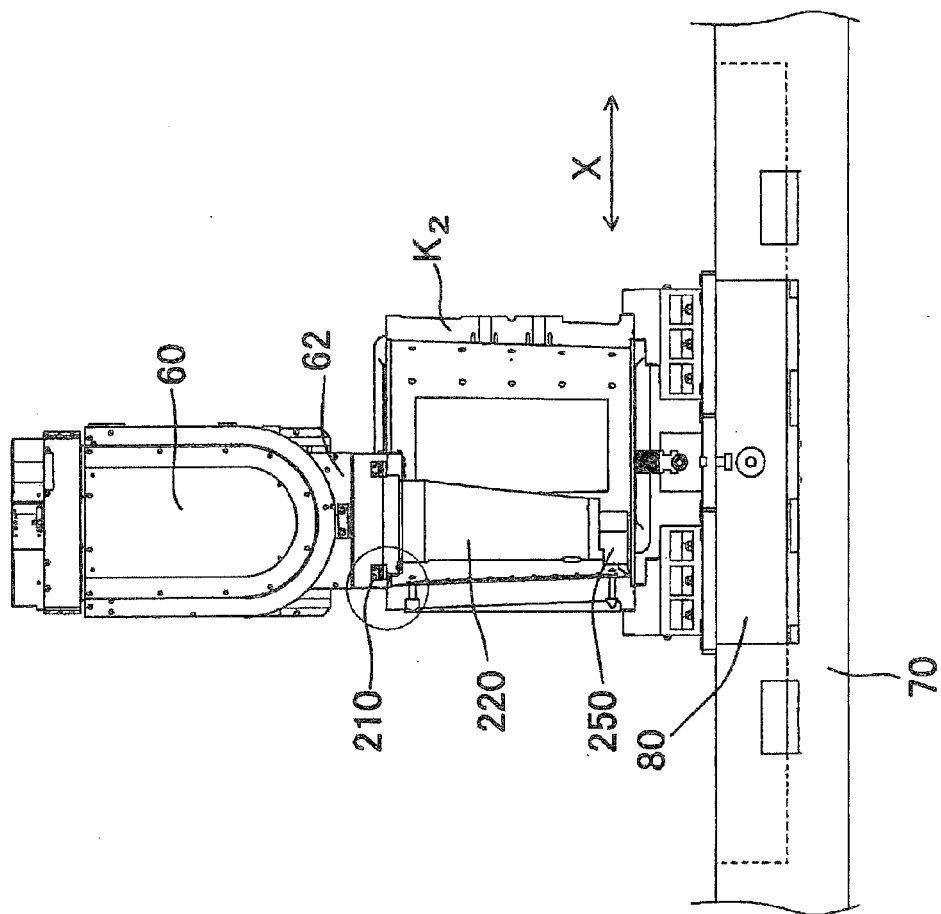
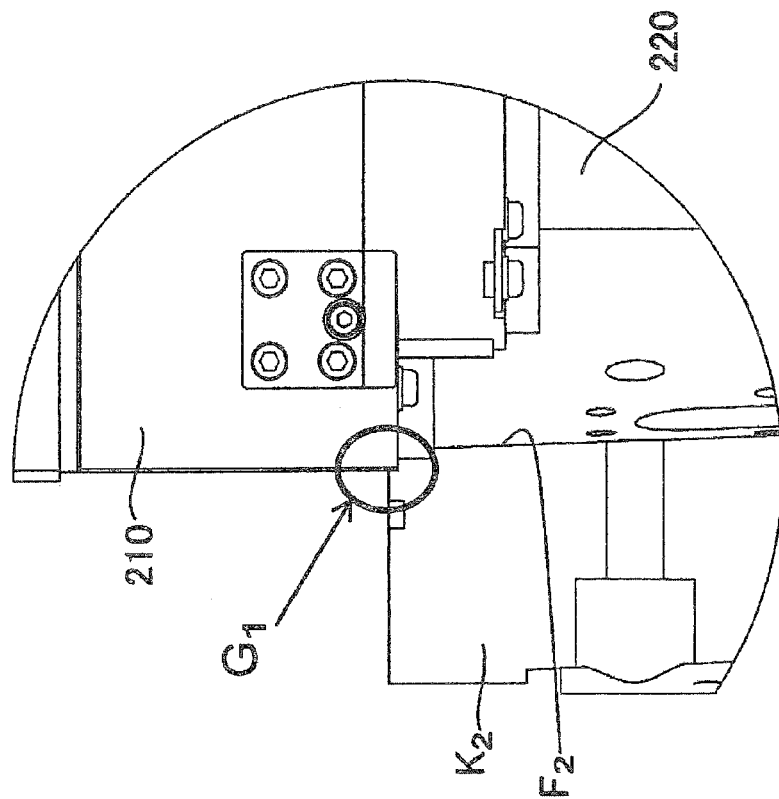


FIG. 5B



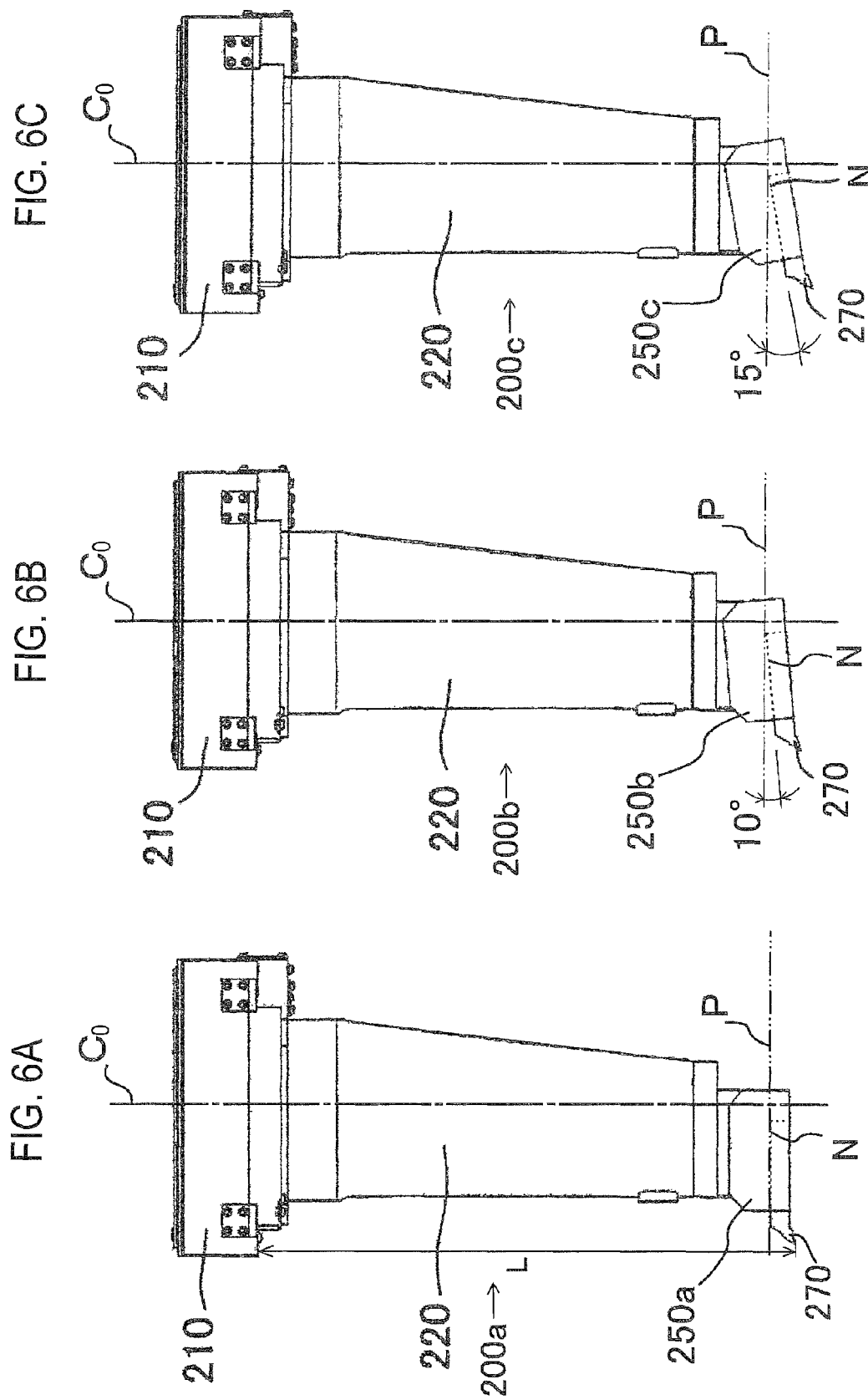


FIG. 7

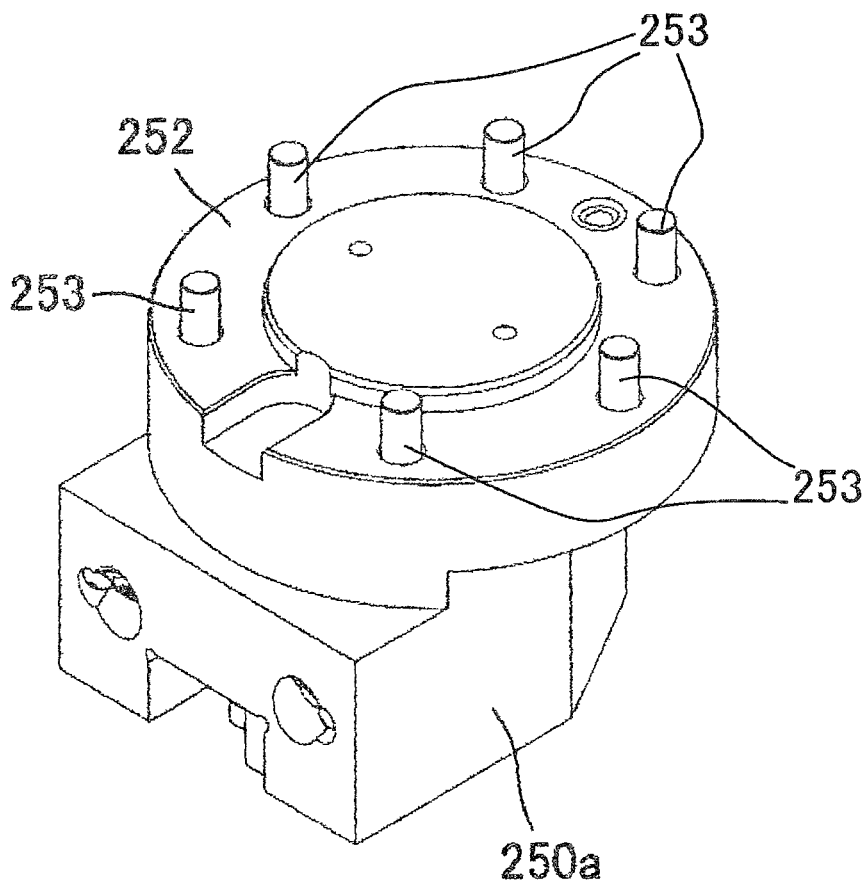


FIG. 8

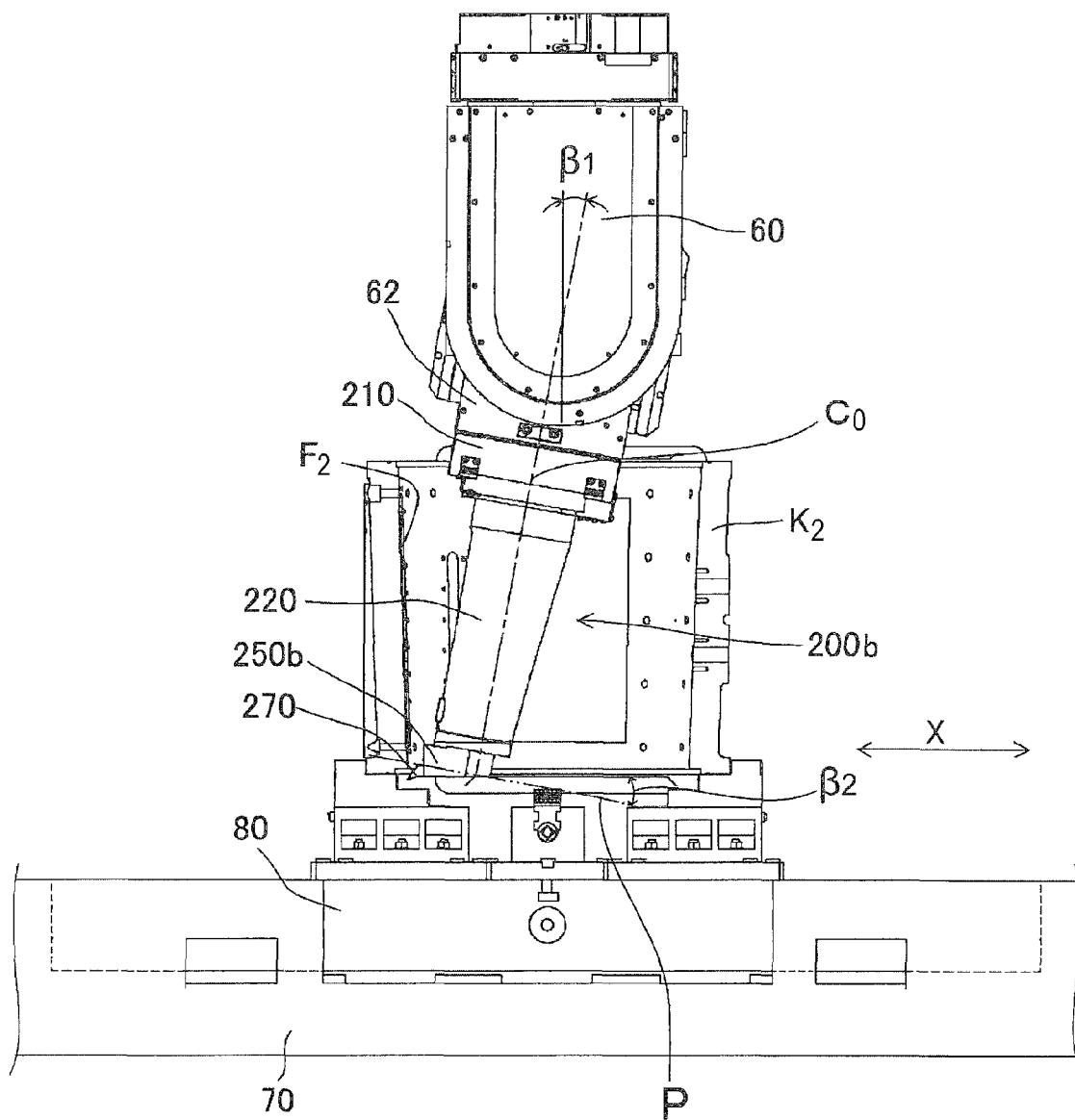


FIG. 9

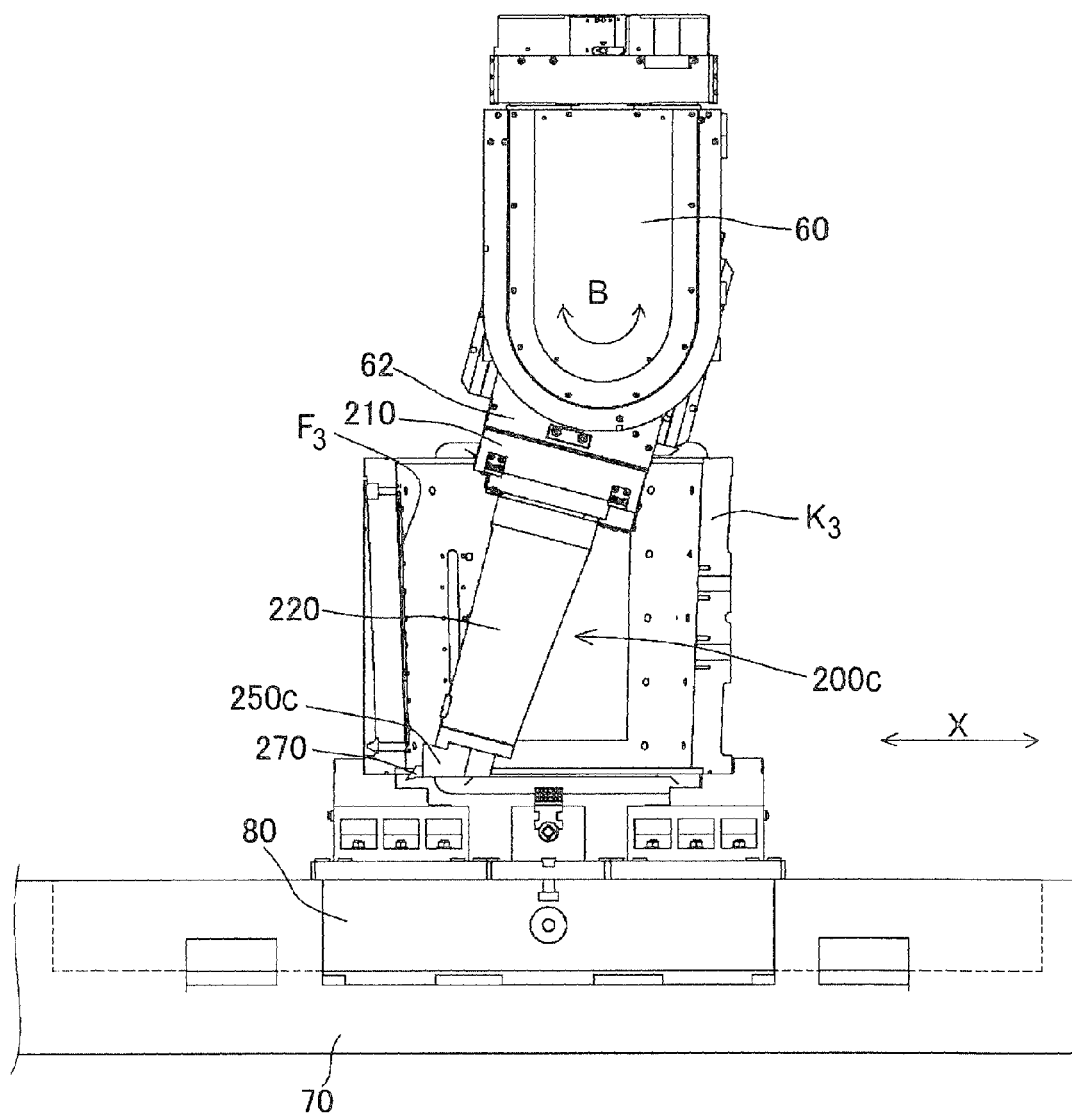


FIG. 10A

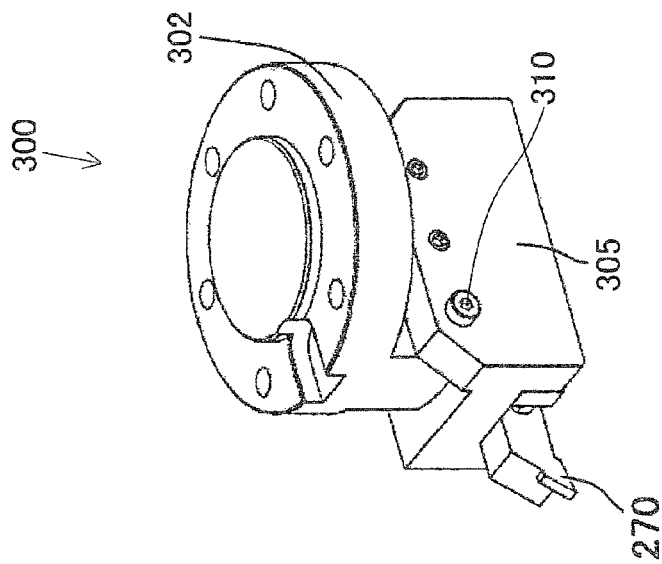


FIG. 10B

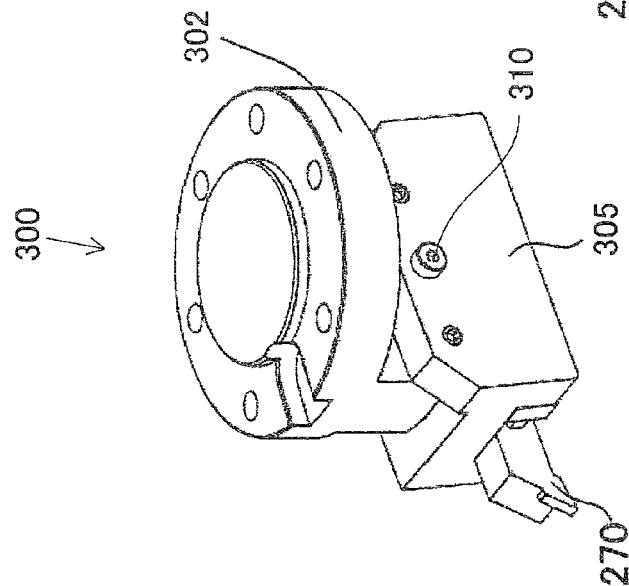
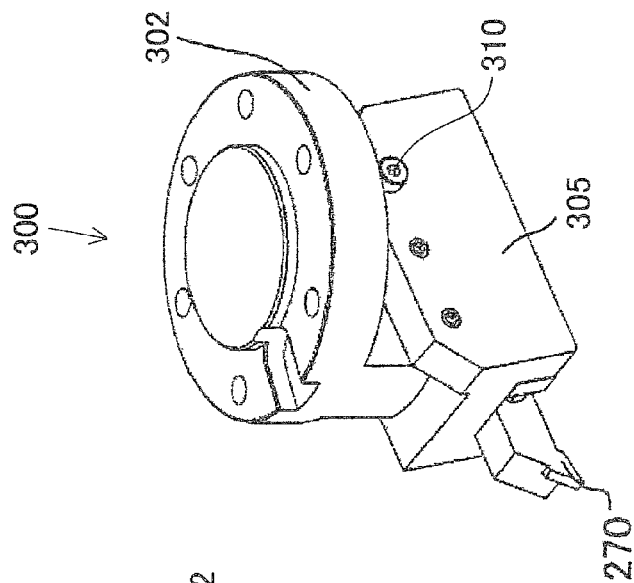


FIG. 10C



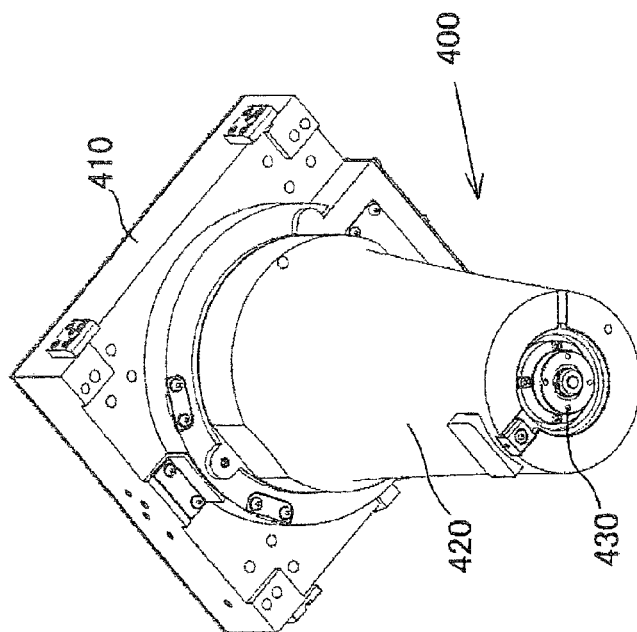


FIG. 11A

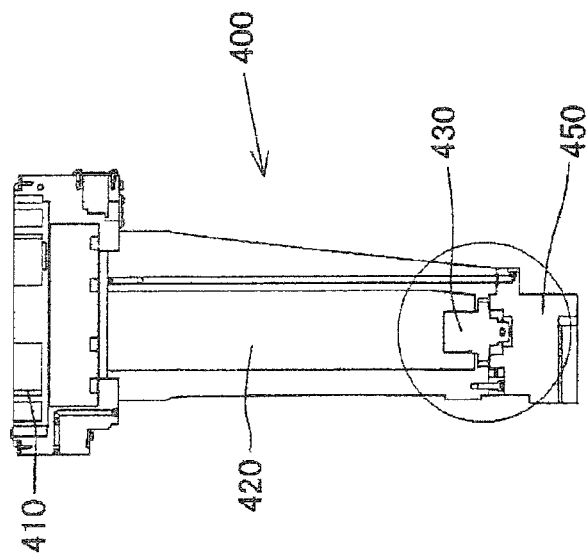


FIG. 11B

FIG. 11C

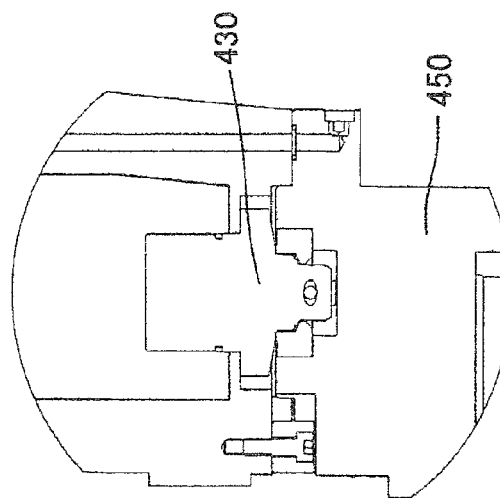


FIG. 12

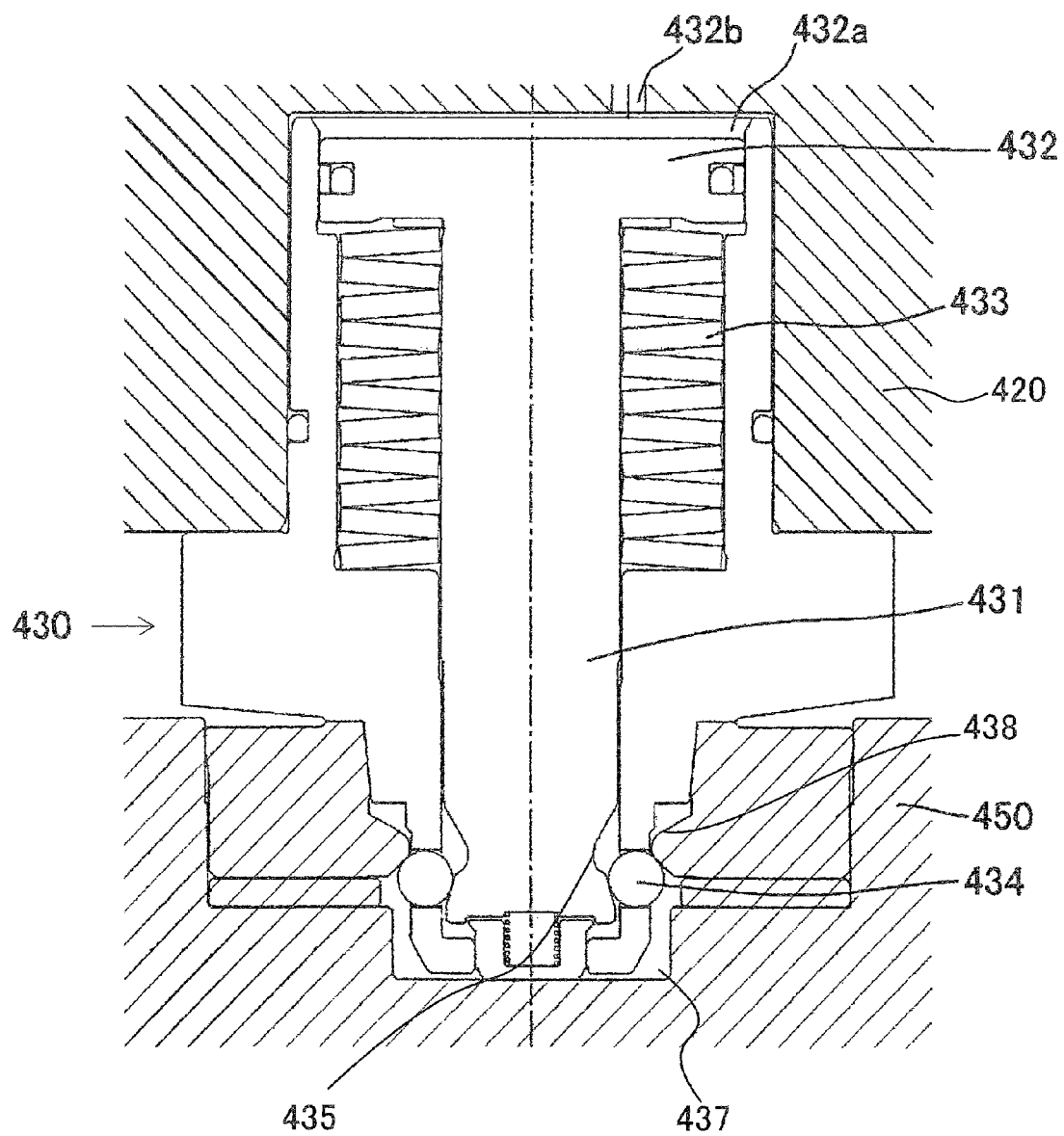


FIG. 13A

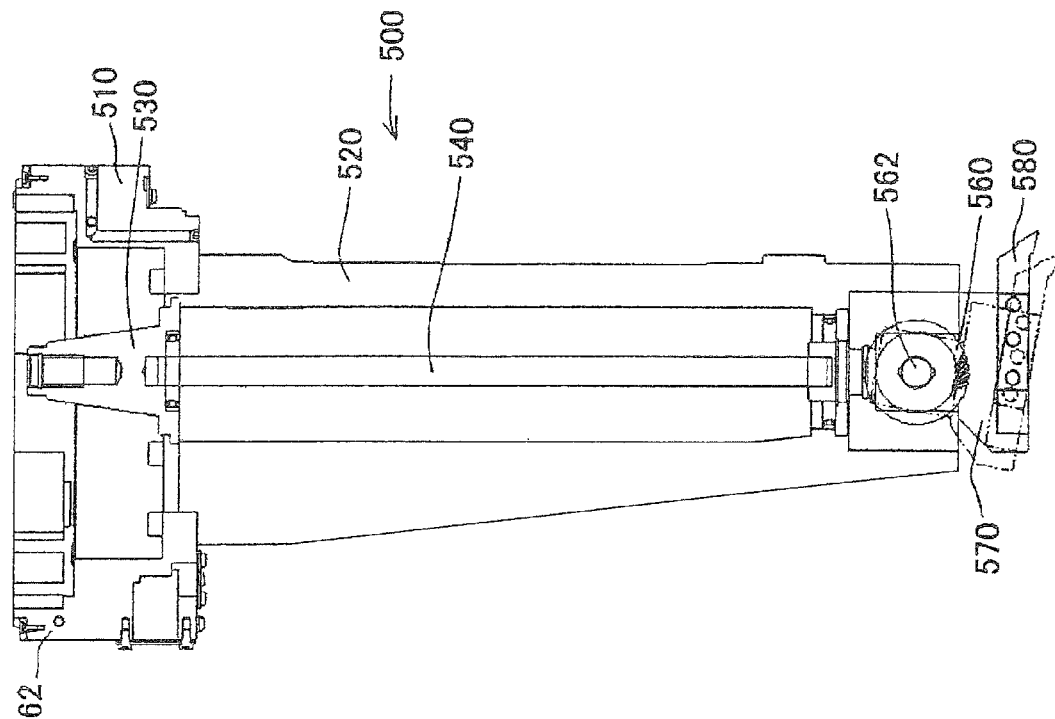
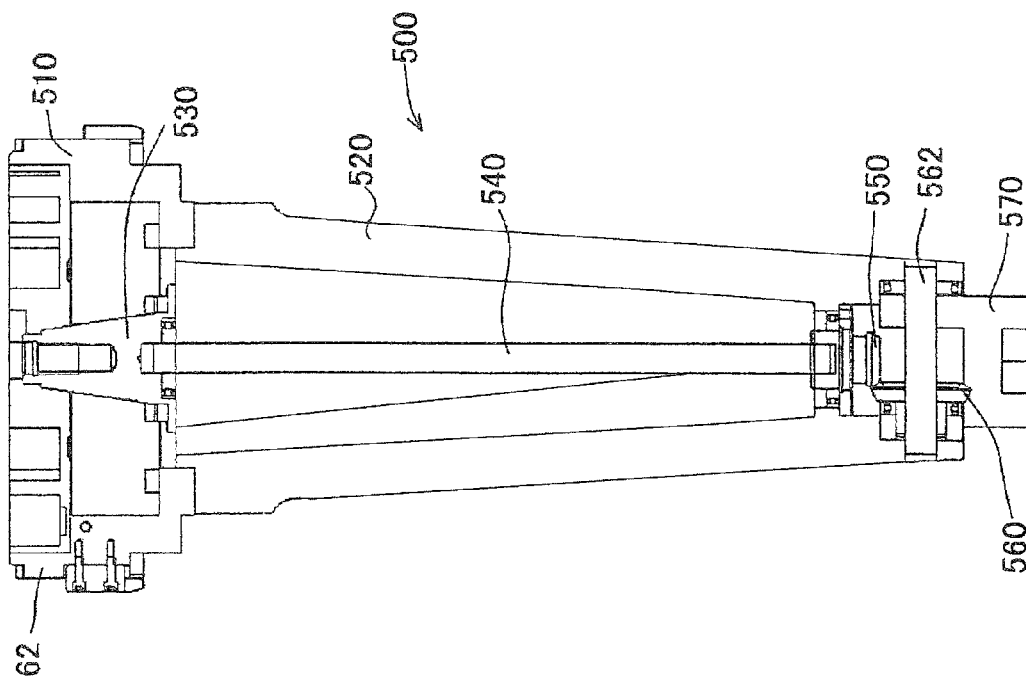


FIG. 13B



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MACHINE TOOL

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is a continuation application of International Application No. PCT/JP2012/082986, filed Dec. 20, 2012. The contents of this application are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a machine tool.

2. Discussion of the Background

Vertical lathes include a rotary table that turns about a vertical axis, and perform various processes such as turning, boring, tapping, and milling on a workpiece placed on the rotary table. One example of such a lathe is a multi-tasking lathe including a spindle head pivotable about a horizontal axis (B-axis) disposed on a tool rest movable in a Z-axial direction. The spindle head has a highly rigid structure, and includes a spindle switchable between a rotatable mode and an un-rotatable locked mode. The spindle is switched to the un-rotatable locked mode to mount a turning tool to the spindle. Then, a turning process is performed on the outer portion, inner portion, end surface of the workpiece placed on the rotary table. When the spindle is switched to the rotatable mode, a milling tool, a drilling tool, or a tapping tool is mounted to the spindle to perform milling, drilling, or tapping. However, the spindle head having high rigidity and pivoting about the B-axis has an outer shape having a large dimension. Such a large spindle head produces interference between the workpiece and the spindle, causing various limitations on the process of inner portions of workpieces to be deeply bored. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 2007-000966 discloses a composite machine tool including a tool rest movable in the Z-axial direction and a ram shaft for an internal deep boring process disposed in the tool rest to be movable parallel to a Z-axis, wherein an inner portion of a workpiece placed on a rotary table is subjected to an internal turning process with a turning tool mounted to the ram shaft to be deeply bored.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to one aspect of the present invention, a machine tool includes a table, a spindle head, a spindle, and an internal turning attachment. The table has an upper face on which a workpiece is to be mounted and is rotatable around a vertical axis perpendicular to the upper face of the table. The spindle head is disposed above the table and is rotatable around a horizontal axis parallel to the upper face of the table. The spindle is disposed in the spindle head and is rotatable around a spindle rotational axis. The internal turning attachment is detachably mounted to the spindle head with a clamp mechanism. The internal turning attachment includes an attachment base, a body, and a tool holder. The attachment base has a base portion and a lower portion opposite to the base portion which is detachably mounted to the spindle head. The body has a body upper portion and a body lower portion. The body upper portion is fixed to the lower portion of the attachment base. The tool holder is mounted to the body lower portion. The tool holder has a tool mount surface to which a turning tool is detachably mounted. The tool mount surface provides a changeable tool mount angle with respect to a plane perpendicular to the

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spindle rotational axis in a state where the internal turning attachment is mounted to the spindle head. An angle between the spindle rotational axis and the vertical axis is to be larger than zero degree according to the changeable tool mount angle and is fixed while the turning tool contacts the workpiece in a case where the workpiece has a hole with a depth exceeding a length from the body upper portion to a tip end of the turning tool along the spindle rotational axis.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A more complete appreciation of the invention and many of the attendant advantages thereof will be readily obtained as the same becomes better understood by reference to the following detailed description when considered in connection with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a machine tool including an internal turning attachment according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of an internal turning attachment mounted on a spindle head;

FIG. 3 is a diagram illustrating an operation of the internal turning attachment according to the embodiment of the present invention;

FIGS. 4A and 4B are diagrams illustrating a structure for mounting the attachment to a spindle head;

FIGS. 5A and 5B are diagrams illustrating a state where interference occurs;

FIGS. 6A to 6C are diagrams illustrating a tool holder;

FIG. 7 is a diagram illustrating another tool holder;

FIG. 8 is a diagram illustrating an operation of the internal turning attachment according to the embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 9 is a diagram illustrating an operation of the internal turning attachment according to the embodiment of the present invention;

FIGS. 10A to 10C are diagrams illustrating another example of the tool holder;

FIGS. 11A to 11C are diagrams illustrating an automatic replacing device for the tool holder;

FIG. 12 is a diagram illustrating a clamp mechanism for the tool holder; and

FIGS. 13A and 13B are diagrams illustrating an automatic angle changing mechanism for the tool holder.

DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

The embodiments will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein like reference numerals designate corresponding or identical elements throughout the various drawings.

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a general arrangement of a machine tool 1 including an internal turning attachment according to the embodiment of the present invention. The machine tool 1 includes a bed 10, and a portal column 20 disposed upright in a center portion of the bed 10 in the longitudinal direction of the bed 10. Between the columns 20, a cross rail 30 is disposed to be movable upward and downward in a direction of a vertical W-axis.

The cross rail 30 has a saddle 40 installed on the cross rail 30 to move on the cross rail 30 along a horizontal Y-axis. A ram 50 is installed on the saddle 40. The ram 50 is controlled to move relative to the cross rail 30 in a direction of a Z-axis parallel to the W-axis. To the ram 50, a spindle head support portion 60 is installed rotatably about a vertical C₁ axis.

The bed 10 has a table 70 disposed on the bed 10 to move on the bed 10 in an X-axial direction. The table 70 has a

turning table **80** embedded into the center portion of the table rotatably about a C_2 axis, which is a rotation axis in the Z-axis direction.

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the ram **50** and the spindle head support portion **60**. The spindle head support portion **60** has a spindle head **62** on the spindle head support portion **60**. The spindle head **62** is pivotable about a B-axis perpendicular to the Z-axis. The spindle head **62** has a spindle rotatably mounted in the spindle head **62**.

An internal turning attachment **200** includes an attachment base **210**, a body **220**, and a tool holder **250**.

The attachment base **210** in the internal turning attachment **200** is attached to and detached from the spindle head **62**.

The body **220** is fixed to a lower portion of the attachment base **210**. The bottom end surface of the body **220** is perpendicular to a spindle axis when the internal turning attachment **200** is mounted to the spindle head **62**. The bottom end surface defines a surface for attaching the tool holder **250**.

To the tool holder **250**, a turning tool **270** is mounted.

FIG. 3 is a diagram illustrating a state where a workpiece K_1 mounted to the turning table **80** is machined with the internal turning attachment **200** where the B-axis is 0° . FIG. 3 illustrates a workpiece K_1 cut along a line through a rotation center C_2 of the turning table **80** and parallel to the X-axis direction to easily understand whether interference occurs between the workpiece K_1 and the spindle head **62**. The workpiece K_1 is shown in a similar manner in FIGS. 5, 8, and 9, described later.

FIGS. 4A and 4B are diagrams illustrating an example of a structure for detachably attaching the internal turning attachment **200** to the spindle head **62**.

The spindle head **62** includes a spindle **63** in the center of the spindle head **62**. A lower end surface of the spindle head **62** includes four grip portions **64**.

The attachment base **210** in the internal turning attachment **200** includes four grip holes **212** facing the respective grip portions **64** disposed in the spindle head **62**. The grip portions **64** are inserted into the grip holes **212**, and clamped. Thus, the internal turning attachment **200** is mounted to the spindle head **62**. The gripping mechanism is similar to the gripping mechanism shown in FIG. 12, described later.

FIGS. 5A and 5B are diagrams illustrating a case where interference occurs between the internal turning attachment **200** and an inner portion F_2 of a workpiece K_2 during the process.

Specifically, when the spindle head **62** moves downward toward the inner portion F_2 , an interference portion G_1 generates between the attachment base **210** in the internal turning attachment **200** and an entrance of the inner portion F_2 .

To avoid the interference, the internal turning attachment **200** according to the embodiment of the present invention includes a 0° tool holder **250a** for the B-axis at an angle of 0° , a 10° tool holder **250b** for the B-axis at an angle of 10° , and a 15° tool holder **250c** for the B-axis at an angle of 15° , as shown in FIGS. 6A to 6C. The respective tool holders are set at angles of 0° , 10° , and 15° . These angles are angles that a tool mount surface N forms with a plane P perpendicular to the line C_0 , with which the spindle axis is aligned, when the attachment is mounted to the spindle. The angle formed by the plane P and the tool mount surface N is referred to as a tool mount angle.

Hereinafter, the internal turning attachment **200** having the 0° tool holder **250a** mounted to the internal turning attachment **200** is referred to as an internal turning attach-

ment **200a**, the internal turning attachment **200** having the 10° tool holder **250b** mounted to the internal turning attachment **200** is referred to as an internal turning attachment **200b**, and the internal turning attachment **200** having the 15° tool holder **250c** mounted to the internal turning attachment **200** is referred to as an internal turning attachment **200c**.

FIG. 7 is a view of a tool holder **250** for manual replacement, illustrating a structure of the tool holder **250** to be mounted to an attachment body **220** with a mount flange **252** of the tool holder **250** and six bolts **253**.

When the same workpiece is continuously machined and the frequency of set-up is low, the tool holder for manually replacement also can sufficiently exhibit the effect at low cost.

FIG. 8 is a diagram illustrating a state where the 10° tool holder **250b** having the tool mount angle of 10° expressed by β_2 is mounted to the body **220**, and the spindle head **62** is 10° pivoted about the B-axis expressed by β_1 and positioned.

The B-axis of the spindle head is pivoted by an identical angle to the tool mount angle to be positioned. This operation enables the blade tip of the turning tool mounted to the tool holder to contact the workpiece at a right angle.

In this state, the blade tip of the tool is brought into contact with the inner portion F_2 of the workpiece K_2 with the turning table **80** being rotated. This operation avoids the interference between the internal turning attachment **200b** and the inner portion F_2 , machining the workpiece without fail.

Specifically, when the portion to be bored is located at a depth exceeding a length L of the attachment projected from the spindle head and the B-axis has an angle of 0° , the attachment base undesirably interferes with the workpiece. To avoid this interference, the position of the B-axis of the spindle head is slightly changed to dispose the spindle head spaced from the workpiece. This changed position of the B-axis also changes the angle formed by the tool and the workpiece. To correct the change in the angle, the tool mount angle is changed as above.

FIG. 9 is a diagram illustrating a state where the 15° tool holder **250c** is mounted to the body **220**, and the spindle head **62** is 15° pivoted about the B-axis and clamped.

Thus, as the angle to pivot about the B-axis is greater, the distance between the spindle head and the workpiece is longer. Meanwhile, the spindle head on the side opposite to the blade tip may possibly interfere with the workpiece. However, as in this example, when the workpiece has a sufficiently large inner diameter, the inner portion of the workpiece is machined without interfering with the workpiece K_3 if the B-axis angle is further changed.

Thus, the tool mount angle is properly selected depending on the workpiece and the B-axis is positioned in accordance with the tool mount angle. Then, the workpiece is subjected to the internal turning process of the workpiece to bore a deep hole in the workpiece without sacrificing rigidity and producing interference.

FIGS. 10A to 10C are diagrams illustrating an example of a single tool holder **300**, which is capable of adjusting the mount angle of the turning tool **270**.

The turning tool **270** is fixed to a tool mounting member **305**, and the tool mounting member **305** is mounted to the body mounting member **302** pivotably about a pin not shown. The tool mounting member **305** and the body mounting member **302** respectively include angle bolt holes and tapped holes to fix the tool mount angles of 0° , 10° , and 15° , respectively. A bolt **310** is screwed into the leftmost bolt hole in (a) in the diagram to fix the turning tool **270** at 0° , into the central bolt hole in (b) in the diagram to fix the

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turning tool **270** at 10°, and into the rightmost bolt hole in (c) in the diagram to fix the turning tool **270** at 15°.

The turning tool **270** may be designed such that the tool mount angle is changed to any angle.

The tool holder of this type is also effective when the frequency of set-up is lower. Additionally, the tool holder of this type may not necessarily be provided in plural, which is advantageous in cost.

FIGS. **11A** to **11C** are diagrams illustrating an example of the internal turning attachment having a structure enabling automatic replacement of the tool holders having different tool mount angles.

A tool holder automatic replacement type internal turning attachment **400** includes an attachment base **410** and a body **420** mounted to the attachment base **410**. The distal end portion of the body **420** has a grip portion **430**. The grip portion **430** is mechanically operated to automatically replace the tool holders **450** having different turning tool mount angles. Specifically, a tool holder storage is disposed within a spindle movable area. The tool holder storage includes a plurality of stands, and the respective tool holders are horizontally placed on the stands with the mount flange facing upward. After the tool holder automatic replacement type internal turning attachment **400** is placed on an empty stand and positioned, the grip portion **430** is unclamped to release the tool holder onto the stand. Then, the attachment **400** is positioned for another tool holder placed on another stand, and the grip portion **430** is clamped. Thus, the tool holder **450** is automatically replaced.

Thus, two or more tool holders having different tool mount angles are kept within the spindle movable area, and automatically replaced. This enables frequent set-up and the processing of different portions in the same workpiece with the attachments having different tool mount angles. When the workpiece is machined with the tool holder having a tool mount angle of 10° or 15° at an angle of the B-axis of 10° or 15°, a component in the X-axial direction in the length from an attachment support portion to the blade tip is slightly longer than that at an angle of the B-axis of 0°, causing disadvantages in rigidity. When chattering occurs, and if no interference occurs between the 0° tool holder and the workpiece, the 0° tool holder may possibly attain good process results.

FIG. **12** is a diagram illustrating a gripping mechanism for the grip portion **430** in detail.

The tool holder **450** includes a grip hole **437** having a protrusion portion **438**.

The grip portion **430** includes a hydraulic chamber **432a** having a drawbar **431** and a piston **432** integrated with the drawbar **431**. Hydraulic pressure is applied to the hydraulic chamber **432a** from the spindle side via a passage **432b**. The tool holder **450** is pushed with the drawbar **431** to release the clamp, and a ball **434** is accommodated into a depression portion **435**. Thus, the tool holder **450** is unclamped. When hydraulic pressure is not applied, a spring **433** moves the drawbar **431** in a direction to draw back the tool holder **450**, and the ball **434** grasps the tool holder **450**.

FIGS. **13A** and **13B** are diagrams illustrating an example of the internal turning attachment having a structure in which a driving force of the spindle is utilized to automatically change the tool mount angle in the tool holder.

A tool holder rotating type internal turning attachment **500** includes an attachment base **510** to be mounted to the spindle head **62**. The attachment base **510** includes a spindle shank **530** in the center portion of the attachment base **510**, and is inserted into the spindle in the spindle head **62**. The rotational force of the spindle shank **530** is transmitted via

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a drive shaft **540** to a bevel gear **550** disposed in the distal end portion of the body **520**. The body **520** has a support shaft **562** mounted to the body **520**, and supports a bevel gear **560** together with a tool holder **570** to mesh the bevel gear **560** with the bevel gear **550**. Thus, the rotation of the bevel gear **550** is changed by 90°, and transmitted to the bevel gear **560**. The rotation of the bevel gear **560** automatically changes the tool mount angle in the tool holder **570**, which supports a turning tool **580**.

As has been described hereinbefore, the tool mount angle is changed by the rotation of the spindle. The rotational angle of the spindle is controlled to set the mount angle at any angle. The tool mount angle is changed to any angle to avoid the interference between the workpiece and the attachment as occasion arises. Such a configuration increases the freedom of the program for the process. Additionally, chattering can be eliminated by adjusting the tool amount angle slightly.

The automatic change of the tool mount angle leads to improved process efficiency because the process conditions including the tool mount angle can be freely changed while one workpiece is being machined.

Thus, by controlling the B-axis of the spindle head in the machine tool, the internal turning attachment according to the embodiment of the present invention can deep cut an inner portion of a workpiece to be bored which is located at a depth exceeding the length of the attachment projected from the spindle head.

Obviously, numerous modifications and variations of the present invention are possible in light of the above teachings. It is therefore to be understood that within the scope of the appended claims, the invention may be practiced otherwise than as specifically described herein.

What is claimed is:

1. A machine tool comprising:

- a table having an upper face on which a workpiece is to be mounted and being rotatable around a vertical axis perpendicular to the upper face of the table;
- a spindle head disposed above the table and being rotatable around a horizontal axis parallel to the upper face of the table;
- a spindle disposed in the spindle head and being rotatable around a spindle rotational axis; and
- an internal turning attachment detachably mounted to the spindle head with a clamp mechanism, the internal turning attachment comprising:
 - an attachment base having a base portion and a lower portion opposite to the base portion which is detachably mounted to the spindle head;
 - a body having a body upper portion and a body lower portion, the body upper portion being fixed to the lower portion of the attachment base; and
 - a tool holder mounted to the body lower portion, the tool holder having a housing including a tool mount surface to which a turning tool is detachably mounted, the tool holder having a changeable tool mount angle with respect to a plane perpendicular to the spindle rotational axis when the internal turning attachment is mounted to the spindle head, an angle between the spindle rotational axis and the vertical axis being larger than zero degrees according to the changeable tool mount angle and being fixed while the turning tool contacts the workpiece when the workpiece has a hole with a depth exceeding a length from the body upper portion to a tip end of the turning tool along the spindle rotational axis,

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wherein when the tool mount angle is changed, a position of a lower surface of the housing changes relative to the spindle rotational axis.

2. A machine tool system comprising:

a machine tool having:

- a table having an upper face on which a workpiece is to be mounted and being rotatable around a vertical axis perpendicular to the upper face of the table;
- a spindle head disposed above the table and being rotatable around a horizontal axis parallel to the upper face of the table;
- a spindle disposed in the spindle head and being rotatable around a spindle rotational axis;
- an internal turning attachment detachably mounted to the spindle head with a clamp mechanism, the internal turning attachment comprising:
 - an attachment base having a base portion and a lower portion opposite to the base portion which is detachably mounted to the spindle head;
 - a body having a body upper portion and a body lower portion, the body upper portion being fixed to the lower portion of the attachment base; and
 - a tool holder mounted to the body lower portion, the tool holder having a tool mount surface to which a turning tool is detachably mounted, the tool holder having a changeable tool mount angle with respect to a plane perpendicular to the spindle rotational axis when the internal turning attachment is mounted to the spindle head, an angle between the spindle rotational axis and the vertical axis being larger than zero degrees according to the changeable tool mount angle and being fixed while the turning tool contacts the workpiece when the workpiece has a hole with a depth exceeding a length from the body upper portion to a tip end of the turning tool along the spindle rotational axis; and

a plurality of tool holders having different tool mount surfaces, to which the turning tool is detachably mounted,

wherein the different tool mount surfaces provide different tool mount angles with respect to the plane perpendicular to the spindle rotational axis in a state where the internal turning attachment is mounted to the spindle head, and

wherein the tool holder is replaced with one of the plurality of tool holders to change the changeable tool mount angle.

3. The machine tool according to claim 1,

wherein while a turning process is performed, a positioning angle for positioning a pivot axis of the spindle head is defined such that the positioning angle is approximately equal to the changeable tool mount angle.

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4. The machine tool system according to claim 2,

wherein while a turning process is performed, a positioning angle for positioning a pivot axis of the spindle head is defined such that the positioning angle is approximately equal to the changeable tool mount angle.

5. The machine tool according to claim 1,

wherein the tool mount angle is changeable by manual or automatic replacement of the tool holder, or

the tool mount angle is changeable by varying a position of the lower surface of the housing of the tool holder and a position of the tip end of the turning tool relative to the spindle rotational axis.

6. A machine tool comprising:

a table having an upper face on which a workpiece is to be mounted and being rotatable around a vertical axis perpendicular to the upper face of the table;

a spindle head disposed above the table and being rotatable around a horizontal axis parallel to the upper face of the table;

a spindle disposed in the spindle head and being rotatable around a spindle rotational axis; and

an internal turning attachment detachably mounted to the spindle head with a clamp mechanism, the internal turning attachment comprising:

an attachment base having a base portion and a lower portion opposite to the base portion which is detachably mounted to the spindle head;

a body having a body upper portion and a body lower portion, the body upper portion being fixed to the lower portion of the attachment base; and

a tool holder mounted to the body lower portion, the tool holder having a housing and a tool mount surface to which a turning tool is detachably mounted, the tool holder forming a tool mount angle with respect to a plane perpendicular to the spindle rotational axis when the internal turning attachment is mounted to the spindle head,

an angle between the spindle rotational axis and the vertical axis being larger than zero degrees, the angle between the spindle rotational axis and the vertical axis being fixed to the angle larger than zero degrees while the turning tool contacts the workpiece,

the tool mount angle being changeable and the angle between the spindle rotational axis and the vertical axis being changeable to correspond to the changed tool mount angle,

wherein when the tool mount angle is changed, a position of a lower surface of the housing changes relative to the spindle rotational axis.

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